

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 1831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, NAC, MPOL, XH

SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF REPORT ON SOVIET DEFENSE EXPENDITURES

REF: A) USNATO 1346 B) STATE 69817 (NOTAL)

1. MARCH 30 NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING APPROVED DECLASSIFICATION OF C-M(77)11 AND ITS DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AS A "NON-PAER" FOR USE, AT NATIONAL DISCRETION AS A DATA SOURCE WITH THIRD PARTIES.

2. AS EXPECTED (REF A), FRENCH PERM REP TINE MADE HIS AGREEMENTS TO THE DECLASSIFICATION AND CIRCULATION CONTINGENT ON CLOAKING THE NATO ORIGIN OF THE PAPER. HE REPEATED COMMENTS PREVIOUSLY MADE LAST NOVEMBER (76USNATO 6486, PARA 2) ON THE LACK OF PRECISION IN BASIC DATA, AND ASKED THAT ANY NATIONAL USE OF THE REPORT BE "WITH GREAT TACT AND CAUTION."

3. UK PERMREP (KILICK) SAID LONDON CONSIDERED THE NEW DRAFT VERY HELPFUL BUT QUESTIONED THE QUALITY OF THE TRANSLATION. REFERRING TO PARA 25 OF THE REPORT, HE SUGGESTED THAT A BETTER, LESS CONTENTIOUS, PHRASING FOR THE SECOND SENTENCE WOULD BE "THEPROCURMENT OF WESTERN TECHNOLOGY, FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CIVIL SECTOR IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE INADEQUACY OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MODERNIZE THE ECONOMY AND STIMULATER GROWTH AT THE SAME TIME AS MAINTAINING THE PRESENT DEFENSE EFFORT." BILLY AGREED AND INDICATED THAT THE ORIGINAL FRENCH LANGUAGE VERSION OF THE REPORT WAS CLOSER TO KILICK'S WORDING.

4. DANISH PERMREP (SVART) COMMENTED THAT PARAS 9 AND 21 OF THE REPORT WERE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT. THE FIRST SHOWED THE RELATIVELY LOW PERCENTAGE OF SOVIET DEFENSE

EXPENDITURE TAKEN FOR PERSONNEL COST, (CONTRASTED WITH THE SITUATION IN THE WEST). THE SECOND HIGHLIGHTED THE SEPARATION BTWEEN THE CIVIL AND MILITARY SECTORS OF THE SOVIET ECONOMY AND THE LACK OF SPIN-OFF FROM THE LATER. HE FELT THIS MIGHT PARTIALLY EXPLAIN THE LAG IN THE CIVIL ECONOMY.

5. AMBASSADOR COMMENTED ALONG LINES SUGGESTED REF (A)
ANC CIRCULATED COPIES OF SR77-1000IU.STRAUSZ-HUPE

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